

Football shock: Blues withdraw application

MYSTERY surrounds the latest news about Wycombe Wanderers' Football League ambitions.

According to the League Wycombe have withdrawn their application. But the only Wycombe official available for comment — because of their end of season tour of Portugal — says he knows nothing about it.

Reserve team secretary Mr Denis Hobbs told Midweek: "It's news to me. I don't know anything about it. I can't help you."

Mr Hobbs added: "Nothing was discussed about the application at the last committee meeting. It is a matter for the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary."

Mr George Readle, deputy secretary at the Football League, said he was told of the withdrawal "on Thursday or Friday last week."

Wycombe caused a stir in non-League circles last month when they became the first 1st Division League side to apply for membership of the Football League.

It was seen by many as a bid to show the Alliance League they do not have sole right of application.

Tour party

Two weeks ago Loakes Park was inspected by a three-man team representing the Football League's management committee. This was aimed at finding out whether the ground was up to the standard required. But

before their findings were made known, the club had withdrawn the application.

Meanwhile, first thing on Sunday morning, a party of 24, including 15 players, jetted off on the tour to Portugal, which will last for a week.

The party will stay on the coast at Estoril, and will play two matches while they are out there. The first, today (Tuesday), is against Portuguese Division One side Belenenses.

On Thursday they complete the programme with a game against Division Two side Atletico. Both sides are from Lisbon. The teams are being selected by Brian Lee and Reserve team manager John Maskell. Manager Mike Keen is holidaying elsewhere.

MANAGER KEEN IS LEFT WONDERING

WYCOMBE Wanderers this week dramatically withdrew their application to join the Football League.

George Readle, deputy secretary of the Football League, confirmed that the club had backed out.

But the news came as a complete surprise to team manager Mike Keen. "I'm completely in the dark. I haven't a clue what's going on," he said this week.

Meanwhile the team, and all the Wanderers' officials, were in Estoril in Portugal on their end-of-season tour.

Staff at the Hotel Londres couldn't track down any club of-

Club scrap plans to join the League

officials to explain extraordinary turn around.

Manager Mike, who is on holiday, said: "If it's true then I shall be very disappointed that we pulled out before the thing had a chance to go

through, and before we got the Football League's report on the ground.

"I would also be upset as many supporters who thought the application was a good idea will also be very disappointed."

He added that he spoke to club officials on Saturday before the team left for their Portuguese tour and was told nothing.

Meanwhile in sunny Portugal the Wanderers have played friendly matches against Division One side Belenenses and Division Two side Atletico.